

Superior Court of California

Hall of Justice 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

> Michael D. Planet Executive Officer/Clerk And Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT CELEBRATES COURT ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY MONTH

The Ventura Superior Court will celebrate "Court Adoption and Permanency Month" during a special adoption calendar beginning at 1:30 p.m. today in Courtroom J1 at the Juvenile Courthouse in El Rio. Adoptions will be finalized for several children and Certificates of Family Membership will be presented. The Juvenile Courthouse is located at the Juvenile Justice Complex, 4333 Vineyard Avenue in El Rio. The event is open to the public.

On behalf of the Judicial Council of California, California Supreme Court Justice Ronald M. George proclaimed November as a month dedicated to further improving administration of justice for proceedings involving children and families.

To promote Court Adoption and Permanency Month, the Ventura Superior Court will place a stronger emphasis on permanency planning and adoptions throughout the month of November.

In addition to the special adoption calendar on November 4, an Adoption and Permanency Information Fair will be held at the Pacific View Mall in Ventura on November 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend and speak with representatives from organizations that provide services and support to foster and adoptive parents.

Each year in California, there are more than 490,000 reports of child abuse and neglect, approximately 27,000 children enter foster care, and almost 96,000 children are living apart from their families in out-of-home care. Thirty-four percent of the children in foster care in California have been away from their families in out-of-home care for four years or more, and of the more than 35,000 children existing in foster care between January and December 2004, 52 percent were reunited with their families and 20 percent were adopted.

Individuals interested in obtaining more information on adoptions should call the Human Services Agency at (805) 240-2759 and ask for the Adoptions Officer of the Day.

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